

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

[FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.]
THE last letter from our correspondent from the city, was dated the 8th of May. It came to hand per the Kent, and appeared in the *Herold* of Saturday, the 28th ultimo.

By the *Lloyd's*, which anchored in Port Jackson yesterday morning, from Southampton, after a fine run of 84 days, we have another communication from the same gentleman, dated May 1st, 4th, and 5th, being duplicates of his letters by the Oliver Lang. Although its contents have, to a certain extent, been anticipated by the Kent's mail, we yet deem this letter of sufficient interest in itself to be given to our readers. It touches on many points hitherto unnoticed, but of immense importance, and throws fresh light upon others which, from want of intermediate dates, have either appeared obscure, or altogether unintelligible.

London, May 1.
I have, like the rest of the people, been in daily expectation of hearing news that might render useless anything I might have previously written or communicated, that I have delayed commencing the present despatch in the hope of being enabled to announce at length something really definite as to the progress of the Allies in the reduction of Sebastopol. I, like the rest of the good people of this country, have been disappointed.

If I cannot communicate the fall of Sebastopol, I can at least furnish you with important news, and which must make up for the brevity of my letter.

I never took up my pen to address the readers of the *Sydney Morning Herald* with feelings of greater disappointment than I do now.

The prestige of old England appears likely to be laid in the dust. We have been for months boasting before the world, and at the same time pleading before Russia. We declared our resolution to punish Russia for her aggression on Turkey—to limit her power, control her actions, and make her sue for peace. Instead of fulfilling or even attempting to do this, we have been urging Russia to grant us peace—such, in fact, has been the real state of the case, humiliating as it is. The Peace Conference in Vienna has failed in its object. Russia rejects the propositions for peace offered by the Allies! We have literally been pleading to Russia for months past, and she finally, after trying our patience to the utmost, rejects our offer for limiting the war. Propositions for peace ought certainly to have come from the other side. The *Chronicle* of Tuesday last justly observes:—

The formal announcement by Lord Palmerston, last evening in the House of Commons, that the negotiations for a peaceful settlement had as yet made no progress, is a most forcible confirmation of the question at issue. The Allies demanded from Russia conditions which are never conceded except by a vanquished power. They asked for the fruit of victory without having conquered. If Russia had not herself initiated these negotiations, in her eagerness to profess a hypocritical desire for peace, the mere mention of such conditions would have amounted to an insult too great for any nation of that rank to forgive.

The result of the negotiations is thus given in the Parliamentary debates of Monday last:—

THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

Mr. Bright: I wish to know whether the House is to understand that the noble lord the member for London has left Vienna, and that the conference and negotiations are considered by the Government to be at an end; if they be so, whether the noble lord will inform the House to-day that he will make a specific statement, or hold the House in documentary information whereby we may be enabled to ascertain precisely what is the difference between the terms offered by the Allies, and the terms that may have been offered as a counter-proposition by the Russian Government, in order that the House and the country may understand, if the war should be prolonged, what is its precise object? So many persons not being able to agree as to why it began at all, I am the more anxious that we should know precisely where we stand, apart from the subtlety of diplomatic language; and I therefore ask the noble lord if he will be ready at an early period to give us that satisfactory information.

Viscount Palmerston: The subject to which the honorable gentleman has addressed his question is one of too great and deep importance for me to shrink from some explanation, even at the present moment. What may be the time at which her Majesty's Government may think fit to make a more detailed explanation, or to have a conference with the Allies, is not at present in a condition to state. It is well known to the House that the English and French Governments, in concert with the Government of Austria, had determined that the proper development of the third point, which regarded the treaties of 1840 and 1811 with respect to the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, should, amongst other things, be the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea; and that the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea should be maintained. That was the principle laid down by England and France, and agreed to by Austria, and the principle was in the state accepted by the Russian plenipotentiary. On Thursday last in a conference held, at which were present the English, French, Austrian, Turkish, and Russian plenipotentiaries, the plenipotentiary of England, France, Austria, and Turkey proposed to the Russian, as a mode of making to cease the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea, which principle had been admitted and accepted by Austria—they proposed, I say, as a method of carrying that principle into effect, a small amount of the Russian naval force in the Black Sea should henceforth be limited by treaty, or that all ships-of-war of all countries should be excluded from it; that it henceforth should be only a sea of commerce. The Russian plenipotentiary requested forty-eight hours to take that proposal into consideration. Those forty-eight hours elapsed on Friday, and the Russian plenipotentiary was held, and at that conference the Russian plenipotentiary absolutely refused to accept either of those alternatives, which were pressed by the four other plenipotentiaries unanimously. Thereupon the conference adjourned *sine die*, and my noble friend the member for the city of London, and the French Minister M. Drouyn de Lhuys, were, I believe, to take their departure from Vienna in the course of to-day.

Sir W. Willoughby: I asked if Russia had made any counter-proposition.

Viscount Palmerston: I may state that Russia made no counter-proposition.

Since then Russia has made propositions, which in their turn were rejected by the Allies. This is the only little bit of consolation obtainable from this untoward negotiation.

The news from the Crimea is both good and bad, but the latter sadly predominates. The Allies have bombarded the place for the second time within a few months, but without making any great display, and it is reported that the bombardment has ceased, it is supposed for the want of ammunition, and that the assault is deferred for the want of reinforcements!!! There is reason to fear that this news is true, or has some particle of truth in it. The feeling it has provoked is thus described in the City Article of the *Chronicle* of yesterday. As this is a political subject, we may rest assured that the tone of public opinion is strongly manifested, and the writer, whose duty, as he himself says, is with commerce and money, would have indulged in such remarks. He says:—

Great surprise was manifested in the city this afternoon to learn that the bombardment of Sebastopol had been suspended, and that the assault had been again deferred until the receipt of reinforcements. The news gave rise to many rumours and surprises. It is thought that the ammunition of the allies, or rather that of the English, had become exhausted; or why, it was argued, should the bombardment be discontinued? Many persons wanted to know what the Government had been about all the winter, and if it had not forwarded ample munitions of war to the Crimea

during the past few months, well knowing that they would be wanted. No event since the war broke out appears to have occasioned greater astonishment, disappointment, and chagrin in the city circles than the circumstances which have transpired during the last few months, it is remarked, which ought to have been made to the public peace, but have been earnestly entreated, and offered an opportunity of repecting propositions for peace—the fall of Sebastopol, which was promised in September last, should be accomplished in eight days, has without two bombardments, the last one occupying eighteen days, and it is now no nearer of accomplishment than ever; and the damage done by the Allies during the present bombardment of Sebastopol must be permitted to repeat waiting the reception of ammunition and reinforcements. Such are a few of the reflections which this intelligence received to-day has given rise to, and the feeling of dissatisfaction is becoming engendered, while promises speedily to break forth into an audible expression with irresistible force. The Government appears to be fast losing the confidence of the nation. Merchants, manufacturers, capitalists, and traders generally, alike complain of the inextricable confusion which appears to pervade the entire management of the country. England, it is feared, will lose the prestige which it attached to her as a great and powerful nation, and the people look to the Government for an explanation. Russia, it is thought, cannot go on much longer in their present state. Private capital and property are being depreciated, and the public money frittered away, without any returning good. The nation have promptly responded to the demands of the Government, and have been taxed for a loan and duties have been exacted for a loan immediately answered; the blood of our poorest and poorest has been poured out like water when no less readiness and profusion; the tide of the country has been paralysed, but that of Russia (through Prussia) made more prosperous than ever; in return for all these sacrifices on the part of the people, and at the very moment when a crisis was expected to satisfy all aspirations and hopes, they learn that a gap in the contrast is to take place, and all that has been done is to be done over again, and a feeling of exasperation is evidently daily increasing, which could only be accounted for by those who nicely discriminate between the lawfulness and humanity of warfare wherein one-half of each contending party shall be sacrificed, and that in which the loss shall be thrown entirely on the enemy, which they unwisely deem "a horrible mode of warfare"—although, in truth, proceedings which terminate hostilities speedily are the most humane.

The prestige of the Russian army, which was to be brought to a state in which freedom, civilization, and the happiness of the people, might supersede efforts for territorial aggrandizement, Poland and Finland would become restless encampments; or, to effect their liberation, the Russian empire might be cheaply and effectually excluded from the Baltic (as they can be), the Russians not having been attained with the world. These objects cannot be accomplished by those who confide in iron-clad batteries as means to subdue powerful fortifications—not by those who nicely discriminate between the lawfulness and humanity of warfare wherein one-half of each contending party shall be sacrificed, and that in which the loss shall be thrown entirely on the enemy, which they unwisely deem "a horrible mode of warfare"—although, in truth, proceedings which terminate hostilities speedily are the most humane.

His Lordship's secret I believe to be to destroy the whole Russian army. This must be by some chemical means by the aid of balloons or explosive material, which, bursting over the place, would suffocate the Russians. His agent, I am assured by those in his most devoted supporters amongst the public, and unless, he with a master mind and invincible will, resolves to break through whatever barrier he may find bars his action in the English camp, from the shame which it is felt to be done over again, and a feeling of exasperation is evidently daily increasing, which could only be accounted for by those who nicely discriminate between the lawfulness and humanity of warfare wherein one-half of each contending party shall be sacrificed, and that in which the loss shall be thrown entirely on the enemy, which they unwisely deem "a horrible mode of warfare"—although, in truth, proceedings which terminate hostilities speedily are the most humane.

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MORETON BAY.

propriety of proceeding energetically with a work so national in its character that no part of the islands can fail to share in many of its advantages. To your wisdom it belongs to consider in what way the funds necessary to effect this great improvement may be best procured.

It is gratifying to me, on commencing my reign, to be able to inform you, that my relations with all the great Powers, between whom and myself exist treaties of amity, are of the most satisfactory nature. I have received from all of them assurances that leave no room to doubt that my rights and sovereignty will be respected. My policy, as regards all foreign nations, being that of peace, impartiality, and neutrality, in the spirit of that which was by the late Emperor of the Roman Empire, and of the resolution of the Board of Council of the 15th June, and 17th July, I have given to the President of the United States, at his request, my solemn adhesion to the rule, and to the principles establishing the rights of neutrals during war, contained in the Convention between His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and the United States, concluded in Washington, on the 22nd July last.

I have exchanged my ratification for that, by my great and beloved Majesty, Oscar, King of Sweden and Norway, of the true copy concluded at my court on the 1st day of July, 1852.

I have ordered my Minister of Foreign Relations to inform you of all the treaties with foreign nations negotiated under the late reign, of the progressive steps by which the sovereignty and independence of this kingdom have become so generally acknowledged, and of the transactions generally of the department under his charge.

I have undertaken an important mission to the Honorable William L. Lee, Chancellor of the King's Bench and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and have accredited him as my Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, from which mission I anticipate important results for the benefit of you all, which will be made known to you hereafter. In the meanwhile, I recommend you to vote such a sum as, in your wisdom, you may deem adequate for the expense of that mission.

My Minister of Finance will submit, for your consideration, certain important measures relating to the certain financials; and you cannot fail to be impressed with the necessity of devising some means of enlarging them. With-out more extended means we must remain in the position of having the will, without the power, to stimulate agriculture and commerce, and to provide generally for the physical, mental, and moral improvement of the nation.

Mr. KENNEDY, who arrived recently from Sydney, is the new appointed Immigration Agent at Moreton Bay. It will be seen from the Estimates that a salary of £200 per annum, with £100 temporary increase, is proposed for this officer.

COMPENSATION FOR DISEASED SHEEP.—The following sum of money has been allowed by way of compensation to owners of diseased sheep destroyed in the Northern Districts under the provisions of the Sab-
bath Act, namely, the police districts of New Bra-
tisbane (Gipps) which police districts are situated in the Shire of Lorne, 61 Clarence, £169 9s. 5d.; Daring Downs, £115 18s. 6d.; Grafton, £28; Ipswich, £536 14s. 4d.; Maranoa, £12 18s.; Moreton, £269; Lismore and Burnett, £1366 10s. 9d.

LECTURE AT THE SCHOOL OF ARTS.—On Thursday evening the Rev. Charles Smith delivered a lecture in the hall of the slave-named institution on "The Age of Light." He referred to a subject which would scarcely interest you, but I will do my best to give you a summary. Mr. Smith's lecture was interesting and well received.

The LATE FIRE.—A number of workmen are busily engaged re-building Mr. Pettigrew's steam saw-mills, and we are happy to announce that that gentleman calculates with confidence that they will again be in partial operation in the course of ten or fourteen days at the utmost. The inconvenience to the public will be much less than we anticipated it would have been, as well as his exertions to place portions of the machinery in working order with the least possible delay.

THE GOLD FIELDS BILL.—A number of workmen are busily engaged re-building Mr. Pettigrew's steam saw-mills, and we are happy to announce that that gentleman calculates with confidence that they will again be in partial operation in the course of ten or fourteen days at the utmost. The inconvenience to the public will be much less than we anticipated it would have been.

Mr. M. P. COOPER has done his best to let us know that the gold fields are in a most flourishing condition.

THE LOCAL PARLIAMENT HOUSES.—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that, as there had been some misunderstanding in regard to this bill, he was led to believe that some of its clauses referred to a state of things which did not exist, he should move that the second reading be postponed till this day next. Carried.

MURRAY RIVER CUSTOMS' BILL.

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GUNPOWDER CARRIAGE BILL.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved the second

reading of the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The second reading of the Gold Fields' Management Bill was postponed till Wednesday next.

THE PURCHASE OF THE TORCH STEAMER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that, as the

paper relative to the purchase of the Torch steamer would come before them when the Estimates were under consideration, he should move the post-ponement of that matter for this day week.

THE BREAKFAST CREEK ROAD.—The roadway across the swamp, at the northern extremity of Fortitude Valley, has, now, we suppose, undergone all the necessary work, and is intended to give it. It is a very substantial work, planned and executed on a scale which appears calculated to insure permanency, and is certainly very creditable to all concerned.

The only fault that can be found with the execution, is that the embankment has not been carried far enough out on the Brisbane side of the swamp. It terminates too abruptly at that point, where there is still such a depression of ground as must cause the lodges to be considerably above the water during the rains.

Mr. M. P. COOPER has done his best to let us know that the level of the roadway was not maintained throughout.

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